Regulatory Board (AERB) an autonomous body. The radiological safety status of these installations is being continuously monitored by the AERB. The Board has in place an effective technical and administrative review mechanism consisting of safety committees at the unit level, and Safety Review Committee for Operating Plants to enforce radiological and industrial safety provisions in the installations.

The radioactive releases have been within the limits prescribed by AERB. In view of the fact that there is a competent autonomous agency to enforce safety provisions effectively, there has been no necessity to conduct a separate enquiry regarding the leakages.

(d) Does not arise.

Progress in software

926. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been admitted in the Science Congress held in Bangalore that India's progress in software has been service based but not product-based;

(b) whether it has also been admitted in the Congress that the world is moving towards China because of China's stride in IT sector; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure that the country does not lag behind China in this vital sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU, THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology had not organised the Science Congress held in Bangalore. However, the 90th Session of the Indian Science Congress held in Bangalore during January 3-7,2003, was organised by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Bangalore University. The focal theme of the 90th Session was on "Frontier Science and cutting-edge Technologies".

In the 90th Session of the Indian Science Congress, there were two sessions related to IT.

(1) A Plenary on Information Science and Technologies for a Knowledge.

(2) A Sectional Session on Information and Communications Science and Technology.

As per the inputs available from the organisers of the Science Congress there was neither any agreement nor acceptance of the following:

(i) that India's progress in software has been service-based but not product-based;

(ii) that the world is moving towards China because of China's stride in IT sector;

Further in the presentations made, there was all-round appreciation and recognition that India has made great strides in IT and that the challenge ahead of India is to emerge as an IT super power, in software and manufacturing, and enable a knowledge-society by integrating information technology to the core of science, technological and economic activities.

(c) Does not arise.

ATMs in Post Offices in Karnataka

927. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to install ATMs in post offices of Karnataka;

(b) if so, how many post offices have been identified for this purpose in the State;

(c) whether some banks have approached the Department of Posts in Karnataka for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the decision if any taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (d) Although a number of Banks have